

**COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
AGENDA ITEM TRANSMITTAL**

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|--|--|--|----------------------|
| (1) DEPARTMENT Social Services | (2) MEETING DATE 8/11/2015 | (3) CONTACT/PHONE Trish Avery Caldwell (805) 788-2601 | |
| (4) SUBJECT Request to approve a FY 2015-16 renewal service contract (Clerk's File) for Services Affirming Family Empowerment (SAFE) Family Advocates with Central Coast LINK (The LINK) in the amount of \$76,695. All Districts. | | | |
| (5) RECOMMENDED ACTION It is recommended that the Board approve, and direct the Chairperson to sign, a renewal service contract with Central Coast LINK (The LINK) for Services Affirming Family Empowerment (SAFE) Family Advocates for Fiscal Year 2015-16 in the amount of \$76,695. | | | |
| (6) FUNDING SOURCE(S) Federal 100% | (7) CURRENT YEAR FINANCIAL IMPACT \$76,695 | (8) ANNUAL FINANCIAL IMPACT \$76,695 | (9) BUDGETED? Yes |
| (10) AGENDA PLACEMENT <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Consent <input type="checkbox"/> Presentation <input type="checkbox"/> Hearing (Time Est. ____) <input type="checkbox"/> Board Business (Time Est. ____) | | | |
| (11) EXECUTED DOCUMENTS <input type="checkbox"/> Resolutions <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Contracts <input type="checkbox"/> Ordinances <input type="checkbox"/> N/A | | | |
| (12) OUTLINE AGREEMENT REQUISITION NUMBER (OAR) 19001568 | | (13) BUDGET ADJUSTMENT REQUIRED? BAR ID Number: <input type="checkbox"/> 4/5 Vote Required <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A | |
| (14) LOCATION MAP N/A | (15) BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT? No | (16) AGENDA ITEM HISTORY <input type="checkbox"/> N/A Date: <u>July 15, 2014</u> _____ | |
| (17) ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE REVIEW Morgan Torell | | | |
| (18) SUPERVISOR DISTRICT(S) All Districts | | | |

County of San Luis Obispo



TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Social Services/Trish Avery Caldwell
(805) 788-2601

DATE: 8/11/2015

SUBJECT: Request to approve a FY 2015-16 renewal service contract (Clerk's File) for Services Affirming Family Empowerment (SAFE) Family Advocates with Central Coast LINK (The LINK) in the amount of \$76,695. All Districts.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Board approve, and direct the Chairperson to sign, a renewal service contract with Central Coast LINK (The LINK) for Services Affirming Family Empowerment (SAFE) Family Advocates for Fiscal Year 2015-16 in the amount of \$76,695.

DISCUSSION

In a collaborative effort among the Departments of Social Services, Behavioral Health, Public Health and Probation, the SAFE System of Care (SOC) was established in 1992 as an initiative of the Children's Services Network (CSN). The mission of the SAFE SOC is working together in partnership with children and families to enhance independence, safety, and health at home, in school and in the community. Currently the SAFE SOC is operating in three (3) school districts: Paso Robles Joint Unified School District (PRJUSD), Atascadero Unified School District (AUSD) and Lucia Mar Unified School District (LMUSD). Each operation is unique, but all provide services consistent with the mission and values of SAFE. The LINK contract will provide services in the Northern Region of San Luis Obispo County while services in the Southern Region of San Luis Obispo County will be contracted for separately and provided by Community Action Partnership of San Luis Obispo County (CAPSLO).

The SAFE SOC builds upon the concept of a three-tiered multi-agency integrated service delivery model that has been developed in the majority of counties throughout California. Services focus on incorporating community prevention activities, intervention and referral services, and intensive treatment services. The SAFE Community-Based Team (CBT) and the Intensive Services Team (IST) interact with local community-based organizations and services to support local prevention efforts at the grassroots level. The CBT is made up of *prevention* and *intervention* service providers such as County social services CalWORKs, Medi-Cal and CalFresh (i.e., food assistance) workers, employment specialists, family counselors, parent educators and family advocates. If a child or family needs to be linked to a community resource, transportation, translation, assessment, or help with life management skills a referral is made to the CBT. The team also provides extensive *Information and Referral* services, which often divert a family from any further involvement with "the system" of human services agencies.

The Intensive Services Team (IST) is made up of social workers, Drug and Alcohol and Mental Health therapists, Probation officers and other treatment-level practitioners. If a child or family has immediate and/or severe problems or is involved with two or more service agencies a referral is made to the IST. The IST provides services to support the family and avoid out of home placement for children and youth (whether foster care, group home placement, hospitalization for mental illness or incarceration at the Juvenile Services Center).

The Management Support Team (MST), consisting of mid-level managers from the participating agencies, focus on facilitating the functioning of SAFE SOC staff teams by meeting monthly. The Committee developed the concept of a Site Coordinator which is utilized to assist in operation of the SAFE SOC and the daily supervision of on-site staff. The Southern Region has a Systems Coordinator while the Northern Region has a Center for Assessment and Referrals in Education Services (CARES) Coordinator. Both positions function similarly and work with all of the school districts, agencies and community-based organizations in the region to provide SAFE SOC education and outreach and to insure the smooth operation of SAFE SOC referrals and services.

Benefits to families served by the SAFE SOC include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Services based in their community and linked to the schools make access much easier and “user friendly” for families, who can receive multiple services and levels of service in one location.
- Services that are multi-disciplinary and case managed mean that family service plans are consolidated and simplified. Family members don't have to cover the same ground with different providers.
- There is less travel for both families and agency staff, which is a direct benefit to the individuals involved, the community and the environment through reductions in traffic, fuel emissions and consumption, and increases in saved time and efficiency.
- Any agency or group that serves families and youth is aware of the program and makes referrals to the local SAFE SOC site in their area.

The LINK is a non-profit organization that has been providing services in the North County since 1998 and covers a geographic area that includes Shandon, Parkfield, Creston, Santa Margarita, and San Miguel, as well as Atascadero and Paso Robles. Currently The LINK is a full service Family Resource Center and the primary provider of SAFE SOC Family Advocate services in the North County. They collaborate with the County Department of Social Services (DSS), CAPSLO, AUSD, PRJUSD, North County Connection, Kinship Center, Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA), and other public and private agencies serving at-risk children and youth. Services provided focus on supporting youth and families in need of family support and resources. The LINK's Family Advocacy Program has become the foundation for the Organization's success.

Through family advocates, The LINK has direct contact with families and works hard to build trust and identify needs. When families are in need or in crisis, family advocates are there to support their needs in school, throughout the social services network, and across social, cultural and economic boundaries. Annually, Family Advocates make contact with hundreds of families and provide services that include in-home support, case management, and resources to help families become strong and stable. Schools also rely on Family Advocates to identify concerns and provide early intervention support to keep children healthy, safe, and in school. Since 2009, Family Advocates in the North County have participated in middle school Student Assistance Teams through the Mental Health Services Act Prevention and Early Intervention program. The LINK recognizes that community is family, and a thriving community cannot develop without thriving families contributing to its success. For more information about The LINK and its services you may visit their website at www.slolink.org.

Approval of this renewal contract will allow The LINK to continue to employ Family Advocates that work directly with referred children and families in the Northern Region of the County. Referrals come from teachers, school nurses, principals, counselors, and school staff who have direct contact with children and families. Families can also self refer. The Family Advocates work with several thousand families each year and provide services that help strengthen each family based on their unique needs. These services support the Department and County goal of ensuring all people in our community enjoy healthy, successful and productive lives, and have access to the basic necessities.

OTHER AGENCY INVOLVEMENT/IMPACT

This contract was developed in partnership with Children Services Network (CSN), Office of Child Abuse (OCAP), and The LINK. County Counsel has reviewed and approved the contracts as to legal form and effect.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

A major source of funding for SAFE SOC services comes from the OCAP. A Request for Proposal (RFP) was conducted in State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2012-13 and OCAP Promoting Safe and Stable Families (PSSF) funding was approved for 3-years beginning in FY 2011-12 and later extended to a 5-year cycle which will end FY 2015-16 (CDSS, [All County Information Notice I-16-12](#)).

On July 15, 2014, Item No. 15, the Board approved the original one-year contract with The LINK for SAFE services in the amount of \$62,575. However, in February 2015, the contract was increased by \$14,120 due to an increased amount of PSSF dollars. This change was completed using the County General Services Purchasing (GSP) approval process. Based on the \$14,120 increase, the total approved contract amount was \$76,695.

The total contract amount for The LINK is \$76,695 and is 100% funded with PSSF federal dollars. The contract is included in the Department of Social Services adopted budget for Fiscal Year 2015-16 and will require no additional General Fund contribution.

| Agency | Adopted FY 13-14 | Adopted FY 14-15 | Budgeted FY 15-16 | Notes | Sharing Ratios | | |
|----------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|----------------------|--|----------------|-------|--------|
| | | | | | Federal | State | County |
| Central Coast LINK (The LINK) | \$62,575 | \$76,695 | \$76,695 | SAFE Family Advocates (PSSF funds) | 100% | - | - |

RESULTS

SAFE is a community-based, school-linked program designed to bring services to children and families on three (3) levels: prevention, community-based and intensive. The goal is to focus on family strengths and work with families to keep children safe, healthy, at home, in school, and out of trouble.

Fiscal Years 13-14 and 14-15

The LINK provided thirty (30) families with case management support and coordination of services who were at risk of being taken from the home, in a time-limited reunification situation, or at-risk of child abuse and neglect as of March 31, 2015. A total of sixteen (16) have been re-assessed and fourteen (14), or eighty eight percent (88%), demonstrated improvement in risk areas identified in the Family Development Matrix (FDM) Assessments. The performance outcome seeks seventy five percent (75%) will demonstrate improvement. *The number of families served is slightly lower than the performance outcome to provide fifty (50) families with case management support and coordination of services who are at-risk of being taken from the home, in a time-limited reunification situation, or at-risk of child abuse and neglect, however it is anticipated that this number will be higher by June 30, 2015, which is the end of the contract.*

Based on the final quarterly report for FY 2013-2014 and received July 20, 2014, a total of forty five (45) individuals/families were served. Of these, twenty four (24) were re-assessed and twenty one (21) or eighty seven percent (87%), demonstrated improvement in risk areas identified in the Family Development Matrix (FDM) assessments.

The LINK provided one-on-one support and case management to eight (8) families needing time-limited reunification services and post-adoption support services specifically. A total of six (6) have been re-assessed and six (6) or one hundred percent (100%) demonstrated improvement as identified in assessments as of March 31, 2015. *The number of families served is slightly lower than the performance outcome to provide one-on-one support and case management to fifteen (15) families needing time-limited reunification services and post-adoption support services specifically, with seventy five percent (75%) of families served and cased managed by FDM showing improvement as identified in assessments. It is anticipated that this number will be higher by June 30, 2015, which is the end of the contract.*

Based on the final quarterly report for FY 2013-2014 and received July 20, 2014, a total of fifteen (15) families were provided one-on-one support and case management that included time-limited reunification services and post-adoption services. A total of nine (9) were re-assessed and eight (8), or eighty nine percent (89%), demonstrated improvement in risk areas identified in the Family Development Matrix (FDM) Assessments.

The LINK provided services that resulted in providing seven (7) families (individual parents or youth) with peer support and case management services who are affected by drug and alcohol abuse (contract with North County Connection) as of March 31, 2015. A total of six (6) were re-assessments and five (5), or eighty three percent (83%) showed improvement in FDM assessments. *The number of families served is slightly lower than the performance outcome to provide ten (10) families with peer support and case management services who are affected by drug and alcohol abuse. However, it is anticipated that this number will be higher by June 30, 2015, which is the end of the contract.*

Based on the final quarterly report for FY 2013-2014 and received July 20, 2014, a total of eleven (11) families were provided peer support case management services that are affected by drug and alcohol abuse. A total of seven (7) FDM re-assessments were completed with eighty six percent (86%), or six (6) families showing improvement in the areas they struggles.

The LINK exceeded the performance outcome to coordinate a minimum of six, 7-10 week courses in parenting education and parent skills workshops. *As of March 31, 2015, a total of seven (7) parenting education and parent skills workshops were offered, with a total of forty four (44) participants in attendance.*

Fiscal Year 15-16

The LINK will provide fifty (50) families with case management, support and coordination of services who are either at-risk of being taken from the home, in a time-limited reunification situation, or at-risk of child abuse and neglect. From the 50 families served, 75% will demonstrate improvement in risk areas identified in the Family Development Matrix (FDM) Assessments.

The LINK will provide one-on-one support and case management to fifteen (15) families needing time-limited reunification services and post-adoption support services specifically; 75% of families served and cased managed by FDM will show improvement as identified in assessments.

The LINK will provide ten (10) families (individual parents or youth) with peer support and case management services to youth and families who are at-risk or have been separated, and who are affected by drug and alcohol abuse (contract with North County Connection). At least 75% of families receiving Drug and Alcohol services will show improvement in FDM assessments.

The LINK will coordinate a minimum of six, 7-10 week courses in parenting education and parent skills workshops.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Clerk's File Statement for Contract with The LINK